assessed requirement of urea for Kharif 2004, availability and sales upto 30.6.2004 in Tripura is as under.

	('000 MTs)
Assessed Demand for Kharif 2004 (entire season)	13.00
Availability upto 30.6.2004	9.20
Sales upto 30.6.2004	5.33
Closing stock as on 30.6.2004	3.87

No reports of shortage of fertilizers have been received from the State Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

Setting up of IFFCO phosphoric plant

†518. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up IFFCO phosphoric plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is conducting initial feasibility studies for exploring the possibilities of setting up a phosphoric acid plant.

Subsidy to fertilizer sector

†519. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of subsidy being given by Government to the fertilizer sector has continuously increased in the past years;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given to the fertilizer sector in 1998-99 togetherwith the estimated amount of subsidy to be given in 2004-05;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have investigated into the reasons for continuous increase in the amount of subsidy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (d) The amount of subsidy/concession disbursed on indigenous urea and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during 1998-99 and as provided for 2004-05 (Budget Estimate) is given in the table below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount of subsidy disbursed on indigenous urea	Amount of concession disbursed on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers
1998-99	7572	3789.85
2004-05 (BE)	8143.15	4046

The amount of subsidy/concession, as provided for in Budget Estimates for 2004-05, is subject to revision at the time of preparation of revised estimates for 2004-05 to provide for any escalation/de-escalation in prices of feedstock, raw materials and inputs used in the manufacture of fertilizers.

The increase in the amount of subsidy/concession is dependent on the quantum of despatches/consumption of fertilizers, prices of feedstock, raw materials and inputs used in the manufacture of fertilizers.

Difference between consumer price and production cost of fertilizers

†520. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between the production cost of various chemical fertilizers in the country and their respective consumer prices;

(b) if so; the average production cost of all the chemicals fertilizers production during 2003-2004;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.